Governor Kean has nominated Rutgers Law School professor Alfred Slocum to be the state’s public advocate, succeeding Joseph Rodriguez, who left to become a U.S. District Court judge.

Slocum graduated from Rutgers Law School in 1970, and began teaching there after receiving a master’s degree in law from Yale in 1971. While a student at Rutgers Law School, Slocum helped found the school’s minority recruitment program. He was elected president last year of the national Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO), an organization partially funded by the American Bar Association that is dedicated to furthering minority enrollment in law schools. Slocum took a leave of absence from teaching in 1974 to become executive director of CLEO.

If, as expected, Slocum is confirmed by the Senate, acting Public Advocate Amy Piro will return to the Governor’s office, where she serves as deputy chief counsel.

Former U.S. Attorney for New Jersey W. Hunt Dumont, who resigned his post July 31 to become vice president and general counsel of First Jersey Securities, has been replaced by former First Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Greelish.

Dumont, the son of state Senator Wayne Dumont (R-Phillipsburg), served as U.S. Attorney since 1981. In his new capacity, he said he will assist Robert Brennan, the president of not only First Jersey Securities but International Thoroughbred Breeders, Inc. and the Garden State Race Track in Cherry Hill, in his “personal and civil endeavors as well.”

Greelish served as first assistant attorney general before becoming the first assistant to Dumont in 1983.

In other appointments, Earl Josephson has replaced Catherine Arnone as public information officer for the Administrative Office of the Courts. Josephson, a former reporter for the Trenton Times and Bergen Record, served as acting director of the Division of Purchase and Property for more than 10 years. Arnone resigned to become a public information officer at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Kean Signs Divestiture Bill

“We can no longer stand by and watch while a system predicated on racism attempts to subjugate an entire people,” said Governor Kean announcing that he would sign a bill requiring the state to divest approximately $2 billion in pension-fund investments in companies that do business with the Republic of South Africa. (See “The Divestiture Debate,” NJR, July 1985).

Kean’s announcement came almost two months after the Legislature passed the bill, and ended the speculation and pressure from various groups — including the White House — surrounding the issue.

The Governor said he had been leaning toward a conditional veto of the legislation, favoring instead the position advocated by many business groups that divestiture should apply only to those companies that do not adhere to the “Sullivan Principles,” a voluntary code of conduct for U.S. corporations doing business in South Africa. But he was swayed to sign the measure, he said, after watching a speech by South African President P.W. Botha, which the Governor said convinced him that the South African government had no intention of ending its oppression.

Kean said, “The State of New Jersey simply cannot escape involvement in the question of investment in South Africa,” and that “investments can be potential instruments for change, or they can be sources of support for the apartheid structure.” The Governor also acknowledged receiving calls and letters from the White House, stating that President Reagan was not in favor of the bill.

The bill gives the Division of Investment three years to complete the process of divestiture.

Professor Slocum Tapped for Public Advocate Post

Kean Signs Divestiture Bill

Senator Hagedorn Dies at 74

Senator Garrett W. Hagedorn (R-Midland Park) died August 10 of a heart attack while vacationing in Maine. The 74-year-old senator represented the 40th District in Bergen County for 18 years, dating back to 1967.

Hagedorn, who also served as mayor of Midland Park for 10 years and was a councilman for another seven, concentrated his legislative efforts on shaping policy regarding the state’s institutions and agencies and those charged with their care. He served on the Senate Institutions, Health and Welfare Committee throughout his legislative career. He also served as Senate minority leader during the 1978-79 session.

Hagedorn sponsored legislation reorganizing the Department of Institutions and Agencies into the separate departments of Human Services and Corrections. He also sponsored legislation to increase funding to community mental-health centers and the Division of Youth and Family Services. In addition, he sponsored the recent bill to phase out the inheritance tax, and a $60-million bond issue on the ballot last November to finance safety improvements at state institutions. Hagedorn was also known for his liberal use of senatorial courtesy, often blocking gubernatorial appointments from his district.

A special election will be held November 5, with the winner being sworn in immediately to serve the remaining two years of Hagedorn’s term.